

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
**FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE INTERPRETATION 98-1**

**CODE REFERENCE:**

NFPA 14 (1996), p. 5-3.2 (f)

**BACKGROUND:**

This code section regulates supplemental hose valves in terms of the distance from an exit to the most remote point of travel distance. Exit is not defined in this code; however, all other lettered subsections of p. 5-3.2 use this term as if there was a hose valve at the exit in question. The question has arisen if we would allow this distance to be measured to an exterior exit with no hose valve or wall hydrant, i.e., an exterior garage entrance or an exterior tenant entrance.

**INTERPRETATION:**

The term "exit" in this paragraph is defined as one having a wall hydrant or hose valve on the side of the exit opposite the area being served.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Without this clarification, one could argue that this travel distance limit could be met to an exterior door with no hose valve or wall hydrant. This could even occur at an exit leading to a narrow alley or a bridge with no fire department pumper accessibility. Since the exit discharge travel distance is not limited, there could in some cases be areas of a standpipe-protected buildings accessible only by excessive manual hose lays from fire apparatus. Therefore, the intent of the code appears to be as interpreted above.

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